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# DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

(MEDICAL DEPARTMENT)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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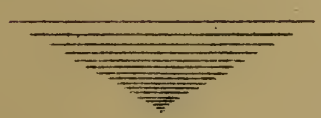
# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# County Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1941



4, Barnfield Crescent,
EXETER.

July, 1942

To the Chairman, Aldermen and
Members of the Devon County Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY LORDS,
LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my thirteenth Annual Report upon the Public Health of the County of Devon.

The vital statistics for 1941 have not yet been completed and in accordance with instructions of the Ministry of Health these will be dealt with in a combined report after the war. This report is confined to comments on the more important health matters which have arisen during the year and should be looked upon as an interim report.

The following information is provided from the statistics which are available. The number of births registered was 6,344 with a rate of 11 per 1,000 population compared with 5,635 and 11.2 for 1940 and 5,558 and 12.0 for 1939.

7,893 deaths occurred with a rate of 13.7 compared with 7,565 and 15.1 in 1940, and 6,481 and 10.7 for 1939.

The Tuberculosis death rate was .58 compared to 0.5 in 1940, and 0.5 in 1939. Cancer showed a slight decrease, viz: 1,016 with a death rate of 1.76 compared to 935 and 1.8 in 1940.

I again take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the loyal co-operation and work of all members of my staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

L. MEREDITH DAVIES,

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER.

## STAFF OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

There have been no changes in the permanent medical staff during the year.

* * * * *

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of notifications and deaths from the more common infectious diseases.

It will be seen that there was a further increase in the number of notifications of diphtheria, viz: 611 compared to 559 in 1940 and 119 in 1939. The number of deaths remaining the same as in 1940, viz: 41. The number of notifications of Cerebro-Spinal Fever dropped from 85 in 1940 to 64 for 1941, compared to 9 in 1939.

Diphtheria Immunisation compaigns have been actively pursued by many of the local authorities.

| | Scarlet Fever | | Diphtheria | | Enteric Fever | | *Pneumonia | | Cerebro-spinal Fever | | Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-encephalitis | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cases | Dths | Cases | Dths | Cases | Dths | Cases | Dths | Cases | Dths | Cases | Dths |
| 1941 | 836 | 4 | 611 | 41 | 58 | 2 | 391 | 317 | 64 | 18 | 10 | 1 |
| 1940 | 863 | 4 | 559 | 41 | 69 | 3 | 317 | 358 | 85 | 15 | 6 | 2 |

* Deaths include non-notifiable forms of pneumonia.

## TUBERCULOSIS

The number of primary notifications during the year was 658, compared with 579 in 1940. The number of cases admitted to Residential Treatment was 411, compared with 432 admitted in 1940. There were 242 patients in residence on the 1st January, 1941, and 241 in residence on the 31st December, 1941.

During the year 99 patients suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis were treated at various institutions not belonging to the County Council.

Grants of extra nourishment, etc. were made as follows :-

(1) Extra Nourishment - 118 grants at 2/6d per week, and 250 at 4/- per week.
(2) Dentistry - 5 grants.
(3) Surgical appliances - 131 grants.
(4) Nursing - 6 grants.
(5) Fares - 77 grants.

## X-RAYS

During the year the following patients from the Administrative County, excluding North Devon, were examined by the County Radiographer - 6432.

Table 1 shows the number of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary patients and Table II classifies these patients according to sex and age :-

TABLE 1

| | Mid-Devon and Ivybank | South-Devon | Hawkmoor | Orthopaedic Hospital and other Clinics | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pulmonary T.B. | 2185 | 1382 | 1966 | - | 5983 |
| Non-Pulmonary | 181 | 78 | 15 | 175 | 449 |
| Total | 2366 | 1910 | 1981 | 175 | 6342 |

TABLE 2

| | Mid-Devon and Ivybank | South-Devon | Hawkmoor | Orthopaedic Hospital and other Clinics | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Males | 1033 | 931 | 872 | 37 | 2873 |
| Females | 792 | 505 | 1066 | 41 | 2404 |
| Children | 541 | 474 | 43 | 97 | 1155 |
| Total | 2366 | 1910 | 1981 | 175 | 6432 |

TABLE 3

| | Mid-Devon and Ivybank | South-Devon | Hawkmoor | Orthopaedic Hospital and other Clinics | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Screenings | 1106 | 591 | 1444 | - | 3141 |
| Films | 1260 | 1319 | 537 | 175 | 3291 |
| Total | 2366 | 1910 | 1981 | 175 | 6432 |

## HAWKMOOR SANATORIUM

Work has continued throughout the year, uninterrupted by the alarms and excursions of war. The extra beds mentioned in last year's report remain unoccupied. The main difference from previous years has been the exceptional call on the sanatorium beds owing to the increase of population in the county. The subjoined tables present in concise form the number of patients and types of case, together with the treatment given:

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Number of Beds available | 156 |
| Total Number of Patients admitted | 262 |
| " " " " discharged or who died | 260 |
| Number of Patient Days | 55,139 |
| Average Number of beds occupied | 151 |

| Age Classification on admission | Males | Females | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Under 15 years | 9 | 15 | 24 |
| " 25 " | 27 | 51 | 78 |
| " 35 " | 37 | 44 | 81 |
| " 45 " | 27 | 17 | 44 |
| " 55 " | 13 | 13 | 26 |
| Over 55 " | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| | 120 | 142 | 262 |

| Disease Classification on Admission | Males | Females | Children | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pulmonary only | | | | |
| Observation | 5 | 6 | 6 | 17 |
| Class T.B. Minus | 34 | 45 | 7 | 86 |
| Class T.B. Plus | | | | |
| Group 1 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 12 |
| " 2 | 21 | 40 | - | 61 |
| " 3 | 39 | 29 | 1 | 69 |
| Non-Pulmonary only | | | | |
| Bones & Joints | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Abdominal | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Other Organs | 1 | 3 | - | 4 |
| Glands | 3 | - | 8 | 11 |
| | | | | 262 |

RETURN SHOWING THE IMMEDIATE RESULTS OF PATIENTS DISCHARGED

| | Classification on Admission | Condition at the time of discharge | Duration of residential treatment in the institution: Under 28 days | | | Under 3 months | | | 3 to 6 months | | | 6 to 12 months | | | Over 12 months | | | Totals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | M | F | C | M | F | C | M | F | C | M | F | C | M | F | C | |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | Class T.B. Minus | Quiescent | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| | | Not Quiescent | 6 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 11 | 17 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 5 | - | 91 |
| | | Died | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 4 |
| | Class T.B. + Group 1. | Quiescent | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | | Not Quiescent | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | - | 8 |
| | | Died | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | Class T.B. + Group 2. | Quiescent | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | | Not Quiescent | 1 | 4 | - | - | 5 | - | 4 | 9 | - | 9 | 11 | - | 2 | 7 | 1 | 53 |
| | | Died | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| | Class T.B. + Group 3. | Quiescent | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | | Not Quiescent | - | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | 3 | - | 6 | 5 | - | 7 | 2 | - | 32 |
| | | Died | 5 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | - | 3 | 3 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | - | 28 |
| | | Totals | 12 | 11 | 2 | 15 | 17 | 2 | 22 | 33 | 4 | 28 | 33 | 6 | 20 | 17 | 2 | 224 |
| Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis | Bones and Joints | Quiescent | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | | Not Quiescent | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| | | Died | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | Abdominal | Quiescent | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | | Not quiescent | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| | | Died | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| | Other Organs | Quiescent | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | | Not quiescent | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 4 |
| | | Died | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | Peripheral Glands | Quiescent | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | | Not quiescent | - | - | - | 2 | - | 6 | 1 | - | 4 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 14 |
| | | Died | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | | Totals | 2 | - | - | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | - | 5 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 22 |

Artificial pneumothorax was attempted in 77 cases, being successful in 54 and unsuccessful in 17. In addition 8 patients were admitted whose pneumothorax had been induced elsewhere. Difficulties of transport have brought about an out-patient clinic for the convenience of patients who can get here more easily than to Torquay or Exeter for X-Rays and refills.

5 patients had ultra violet ray, and 5 infra red ray therapy.

The operating theatre has continued to be much used. The following is a summary of the surgical work performed:

| | |
|---|---|
| Phrenic Nerve Operations | 41 |
| Removal of T.B. Glands | 10 |
| Thoracoscopy & cauterization of adhesions | 15 |
| Drainage of T.B. abscesses | 7 |
| Extra pleural pneumothorax | 5 |
| Nephrectomy for T.B. kidney | 2 |
| Thoracoplasty | 4 |
| Repair of fistula in ano | 3 |
| Removal of lipoma | 1 |
| Injection of Superior Laryngeal nerve | 4 |
| Minor operations, various | 9 |

X-RAYS

There were 1644 screenings made, and 437 films taken. Of these 414 were plain chest, 3 after lipiodol injection, and 20 of other parts.

DENTAL TREATMENT

As in former years dental treatment has continued to play an important part in the general therapeutic scheme. 176 patients were examined, of whom 131 required general treatment. Analysis of the treatment given is 134 extractions (in 6 cases under gas and oxygen anaesthesia) 121 fillings, 169 scalings, etc. 5 dentures have been supplied, and 5 dentures repaired.

OPHTHALMIC TREATMENT

The County Council Ophthalmic Surgeon has visited when requested.

AFTER HISTORIES

The accompanying table shows the present position

| Year of Discharge | Untraced | 1. | 2. | 3. | Died | Total | Grand Totals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1929 T.B. - | 7 | 44 | 17 | 3 | 10 | 81 | |
| T.B. + | | | | | | | |
| Group 1 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 10 | 30 | |
| " 2 | 2 | - | 3 | 2 | 25 | 32 | |
| " 3 | 3 | - | - | - | 5 | 5 | 148 |
| 1930 T.B. - | 8 | 27 | 23 | 4 | 13 | 75 | |
| T.B. + | | | | | | | |
| Group 1 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 27 | |
| " 2 | 3 | 1 | - | 1 | 32 | 37 | |
| " 3 | - | - | - | - | 4 | 4 | 143 |
| 1931 T.B. - | 7 | 44 | 23 | 7 | 9 | 90 | |
| T.B. + | | | | | | | |
| Group 1 | - | 3 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 14 | |
| " 2 | 3 | - | 3 | 4 | 22 | 32 | |
| " 3 | - | - | - | 1 | 10 | 11 | 147 |
| 1932 T.B. - | 5 | 38 | 33 | 4 | 12 | 92 | |
| T.B. + | | | | | | | |
| Group 1 | 1 | - | 4 | - | 3 | 8 | |
| " 2 | 2 | - | 4 | 6 | 21 | 33 | |
| " 3 | - | - | - | - | 10 | 10 | 143 |
| 1933 T.B. - | 3 | 17 | 33 | 6 | 9 | 68 | |
| T.B. + | | | | | | | |
| Group 1 | - | 3 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 12 | |
| " 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 23 | 43 | |
| " 3 | - | - | 2 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 130 |
| 1934 T.B. - | 5 | 20 | 44 | 6 | 5 | 80 | |
| T.B. + | | | | | | | |
| Group 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | |
| " 2 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 8 | 17 | 39 | |
| " 3 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 122 |
| 1935 T.B. - | 5 | 38 | 39 | 8 | 5 | 95 | |
| T.B. + | | | | | | | |
| Group 1 | - | - | 2 | - | - | 2 | |
| " 2 | 2 | - | 15 | 4 | 11 | 32 | |
| " 3 | - | - | 2 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 138 |
| 1936 T.B. - | 1 | 12 | 40 | 3 | 8 | 64 | |
| T.B. + | | | | | | | |
| Group 1 | - | - | 2 | - | - | 2 | |
| " 2 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 11 | 4 | 33 | |
| " 3 | - | - | 11 | 8 | 11 | 30 | 129 |
| 1937 T.B. - | 1 | 19 | 37 | 4 | 3 | 64 | |
| T.B. + | | | | | | | |
| Group 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | |
| " 2 | - | - | 8 | 9 | 3 | 20 | |
| " 3 | - | - | 7 | 12 | 15 | 34 | 121 |
| 1938 T.B. - | 3 | 20 | 49 | 2 | 5 | 79 | |
| T.B. + | | | | | | | |
| Group 1 | 1 | - | 5 | - | - | 6 | |
| " 2 | 2 | - | 10 | 12 | - | 24 | |
| " 3 | - | - | 5 | 11 | 16 | 32 | 141 |
| 1939 T.B. - | 1 | 5 | 74 | 6 | 1 | 87 | |
| T.B. + | | | | | | | |
| Group 1 | - | - | 8 | 2 | - | 10 | |
| " 2 | 1 | - | 5 | 19 | 6 | 31 | |
| " 3 | - | - | 5 | 31 | 16 | 52 | 180 |
| 1940 T.B. - | 1 | 16 | 56 | 4 | 2 | 79 | |
| T.B. + | | | | | | | |
| Group 1 | - | - | 3 | 7 | - | 10 | |
| " 2 | - | - | 7 | 36 | 1 | 44 | |
| " 3 | - | - | - | 19 | 6 | 25 | 158 |
| Totals | 77 | 325 | 643 | 276 | 380 | 1,700 | 1,700 |

During the year 22,588 examinations and experiments were made as compared with 23,360 in 1940 and 17,392 in 1939. The number of examinations for Diphtheria was 11,685 compared with 13,089 in 1940. The number of milk examinations has dropped from 5925 for 1939, to 1,999 for 1941.

DIPHTHERIA

11,685 (1421 positive, 10,264 negative) swabs from nose and throat were examined.

TUBERCULOSIS

1,702 (354 positive, 1,348 negative) specimens of sputum were examined for tubercle bacilli.

ENTERIC FEVERS AND ABORTUS FEVERS

228 Widal Agglutination tests were made with 35 positive.

RINGWORM

67 (8 positive, 59 negative) examinations were made.

MILK CLEANLINESS

| | Passed | Failed | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| (a) Public Supplies | | | |
| Ordinary | 290 (52.2%) | 265 | 555 |
| Accredited | 613 (60.8%) | 394 | 1,007 |
| Tuberculin Tested | 56 (65.8%) | 29 | 85 |
| Pasteurised | 5 (38.4%) | 8 | 13 |
| Totals | 964 (58.0%) | 696 | 1,660 |
| (b) Schools and Institutions | | | |
| School Milk | 120 (54.5%) | 80 | 200 |
| Public Assistance Institutions | 51 (43.5%) | 66 | 117 |
| Public Health Institutions | 15 (68.1%) | 7 | 22 |
| Totals | 186 (54.8%) | 153 | 339 |
| Totals all sources | 1,150 (57.5%) | 849 | 1,999 |

MILK - TUBERCULOSIS

(1) Biological Tests

| | Positive | Negative | Inconclusive | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bulk samples | 1 | 9 | 2 | 12 |
| Ministry of Agriculture | 4 | 46 | 1 | 51 |
| Total | 5 | 55 | 3 | 63 |

(2) Microscopical Tests

During the year 154 samples were submitted for microscopical examination.

VENEREAL DISEASES

The following numbers of specimen were examined :-

| | |
|---|---|
| Wassermann | 1,353 |
| Gonococci | 797 |
| Complement Fixation | 220 |
| | 2,370 |

WATER

Public Supplies

| Satisfactory | Doubtful | Unsatisfactory | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 607 | 114 | 333 | 1,054 |

In addition 10 samples were submitted for examination only for the presence of lead.

Total water samples - 1,064.

GENERAL BACTERIOLOGY

Other cultural and general examination = 3082

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Notification of Births. The following births were notified during 1941 as compared with 1940, (these are not the registered births which are supplied by the Registrar-General):-

| | 1941 | 1940 |
|---|---|---|
| Notified by Medical Practitioners | 1,139 | 986 |
| Notified by Midwives | 4,217 | 3,383 |
| Reported by the Registrars as Non-notified | 331 | 191 |
| Total | 5,687 | 4,560 |

Stillbirths. There were 139 notified during the year compared with 136 in 1940.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. During the year 10 cases were notified including Torquay Borough compared with 17 in 1939.

The Inspector of Midwives investigated 8 cases excluding Torquay and reported as follows:-

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Treated at home ... | 7 | Treated in Hospital ... | 1 |
| Vision Unimpaired .. | 8 | Vision impaired ... | - |

Total blindness - Nil.

Causes of Maternal Deaths. During the year 15 deaths were investigated where the certificate indicated that the fatalities were associated with pregnancy or parturition.

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia. During the year 40 cases were notified including the Borough of Torquay. The Inspector of Midwives investigated 32 cases (excluding Torquay).

Ante-Natal Centre at Paignton. 126 expectant mothers attended - total number of attendances 281. 46 sessions.

Ante-Natal Examinations. 2103 applications received from Medical Practitioners. 1423 in 1940.

Consultants Fees. 124 cases. 80 in 1940. 20 received X-Rays examination.

Institutional Provision for Maternity Care. 377 applications approved. 259 for 1940.

Public Assistance Institutions. 137 applications approved. 85 in 1940.

Home Helps. 145 applications approved. 162 in 1940.

Dental Treatment. 26 applications approved.

Maternity Outfits. 295 outfits were supplied free of cost. 212 paid for by patients.

Inspection of Midwives. 1121 visits (1147 in 1940) were paid to 348 midwives who notified their intention to practice during 1941.

Notifications, under Rules of Central Midwives' Board.

| | |
|---|---|
| Requisitions for medical aid | 1,613 |
| Still-births | 35 |
| Laying out a dead body | 61 |
| Contact with infection | 76 |
| Death of mother or child | 33 |
| Artificial feeding | 106 |
| | 1,924 |

Fees to Medical Practitioners called in by Midwives-1328 applications.

Health Visiting. During the year the Health Visitors paid the following visits:-

| | |
|---|---|
| To expectant mothers | 1,987 |
| Births | 5,238 |
| Re-visits | 16,028 |
| Children, 1-5 years | 25,419 |
| Boarded-out children | 550 |
| Tuberculosis cases | 764 |

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. At the 51 Welfare Centres in the County 1,907 sessions were held and the following attendances were made:

| | |
|---|---|
| Mothers present: | 34,396 |
| Infants present: | 22,109 |
| Children, 1-5 years: | 16,464 |

Weighing Centre (Witheridge)

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of sessions - | 22 |
| Mothers present - | 169 |
| Infants present - | 128 |
| Children 1-5 yrs.- | 64 |

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

Arrangements were made to admit 655 expectant mothers to the Hospitals and Nursing Homes in the County.

Notifications by Midwives under Rules of Central Midwives' Board

| | |
|---|---|
| Requests for Medical Aid | 240 |
| Notifications of Births - | |
| by Practitioners | 45 |
| by Midwives | 487 |
| Still-births notified by Midwives | 2 |
| " " " " Doctors | 1 |

Ante-Natal Examinations. 404 applications received from Medical Practitioners.

Home Helps. 15 applications approved.

Fees for Consultants. 24 applicants approved.

Dental Treatment. 13 applications approved.

Claims from Medical Practitioners were received in respect of 245 cases in connection with these fees under the Midwives Acts(Emergency Midwifery Services).

Centres. The following attendances were made:-

Official Evacuees -

| | |
|---|---|
| Mothers present | 20,196 |
| Infants present | 12,567 |
| Children, 1-5 years | 10,449 |

Unofficial Evacuees -

| | |
|---|---|
| Mothers present | 2,998 |
| Infants present | 2,135 |
| Children, 1-5 years | 1,069 |

CHILDREN'S ACT, 1908, PART I
CHILDREN & YOUNG PERSON'S ACT, 1932, PART 5

In the administrative County at the beginning of the year there were 108 children boarded out in accordance with the above Acts, and 88 Registered Foster Parents; at the end of the year there were 125 children boarded out and 90 foster parents on the list.

During the year 33 new applications for registration were received from foster parents. The homes of these persons were visited by the Chief Infant Life Protection Visitor and approved for the reception of one child. In addition sanction was given to 11 previously registered foster mothers:-

5 for the reception of a second child each
4 for the reception of a third child each
1 for the reception of a 5th child
1 for the reception of a 6th child.

The following notifications were received from foster mothers during the year:-

5 children were legally adopted
16 were removed to their parents

2 children were removed to care of relatives
9 children were removed from the County
2 children were removed to new foster mothers
4 children attained the age of 9 years
1 child was moved to a Public Assistance Institution
1 child died
1 child moved to the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.

Miss L.M.Booker, Chief Infant Life Protection Visitor paid 154 visits of inspection to the homes of foster children.

The Health Visitors who are inspectors under the Act, paid 550 visits of inspection.

EVACUEES

24 children were boarded out with 12 foster mothers in the County by the Children's Country Holidays Fund. These homes have been visited and kept under supervision.

WAR ORPHANS

The names of 14 children were notified to this Department by the Ministry of Pensions, and the homes of the guardians have been visited by the Health Visitors and reports given.

## MENTAL DEFICIENCY

During 1941 thirty five persons were diagnosed and notified as mentally defective within the meaning of the Mental Deficiency Act, bringing the total of such cases now ascertained in the County to 876.

The Devon Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare have continued to give valuable assistance in the work of ascertainment, placement, supervision and home teaching.

A number of evacuated cases have also been dealt with and, in these cases, the evacuating authority has assumed responsibility for maintenance where required.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of Court and Prison cases referred for examination by the County Psychiatrist.

Guardianship and Licence. On December 31st 1941 there were 27 cases under Guardianship and 144 on licence, many of the latter cases in paid employment. Wherever possible, patients have been placed in situations, especially on farms, where their services could assist the National effort. Much useful work can be done by such patients under supervision.

Institutional care. At the end of the year there were 319 cases in the Royal Western Counties Institution, 95 in the Devon and Exeter Homes, 120 in Box House, Axminster, 94 in Western Lodge, Crediton, 35 in Stoke Lyne, Exmouth, and 42 in institutions outside the County.

Owing to the limitation of accommodation it is still only possible to admit cases that are considered urgent.

Stoke Lyne, Exmouth. Admissions were limited during the latter part of the year owing to an outbreak of scabies, which is now quite cleared. There are 39 boys on the books and 7 female working patients. The great majority of the boys continue to have school and handicraft instruction and have produced sufficient work for a small sale to be held.

Western Lodge, Crediton. This institution continues to be full and active and has had a highly satisfactory report from the Board of Control. Nearly one-third of the patients are out on licence and those remaining in the institution have continued in their various occupations. A large number of camouflage nets have been turned out for the Government and in addition sufficient handicraft was produced for a sale of work realising over £100. The laundry continues to deal with the work of 5 County Institutions and also of the local military station. A number of patients are at work in the garden which produces well.

Following enemy raids on Exeter, Western Lodge was able to care for a number of evacuated hospital patients and also did valuable work in the way of emergency laundry service for first aid posts and damaged institutions.

Box House, Axminster. There are 137 patients on the books and the institution continues full, 7 patients being out on licence apart from a number who are working outside on daily licence. The general health record is good. Following a visit by the Board of Control's Inspector a favourable report was received.

The training and employment of patients has increased so that all but a very few of the lowest grade patients are engaged in some form of employment. The garden and the woodshed show an excellent turnover and the boot shop deals with the work of 4 County Institutions in addition to Box House itself and some of the military (1725 pairs during the year). The Tailor's shop supplies the patients with good clothes at a most economical cost and the carpenter's and engineer's departments are also active.

The encouragement of the patients to achieve improvement has been aimed at in various ways - by payment of reward money, the institution of "country parole" at week-ends, and the scheme of daily licence, all of which have been most successful in their results.

## VENEREAL DISEASES

Arrangements were continued for the diagnosis and treatment of patients suffering from Venereal Diseases at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Torbay Hospital, North Devon Infirmary (Annexe), Barnstaple, and the City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are sent to St.Mary's Home, Exeter, for observation and treatment.

The total number of new County cases attending for out-patient treatment at the Centre during 1941 was 214 compared with 266 in 1940. 17 new in-patients received treatment compared with 18 for 1940.

Up to the end of 1941 the names of 43 medical practitioners had been placed on the list of those qualified to administer Salvarsan substitutes, and to these 177 supplies were sent in the Exeter area, compared with 134 for the previous year. No supply, in either year, was sent in the Plymouth or Torquay areas.

The total number of specimens examined during the year at the County Laboratory was 2370 compared with 1615 in 1940.

It was found necessary to repay the sum of £50.9.8 to patients for expenses incurred in travelling to the nearest clinics, compared with £22.18.1 in 1940 and £46.8.0 in 1939.

The following table shows the numbers of persons who attended for the first time, and the total number of attendances of all persons at the clinics during the years 1939 to 1940 :

| | | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Number dealt with at or in connection with the out-patient clinics for the first time ... ... | 303 | 266 | 214 |
| 2. | Total attendances of all persons residing in the administrative County ... ... | 12,233 | 9,879 | 10,325 |

## RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION

During the year the County Health Officers made 98 visits of inspection in connection with the pollution of rivers, of these 8 were the result of specific complaints. 26 samples of river water were collected for analysis.

Milk factory wastes, sand washing and china clay reclamation are other sources of pollution calling for constant observation.

As a rule the various manufacturers are only too ready to co-operate with the Committee in order to prevent pollution.

## COUNTY SANITARY INSPECTORS

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during the year :-

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Inspections and re-inspections ... ... ... | 18 |
| Number of water samples submitted ... ... ... | 5 |

RIVERS POLLUTION AND WATER SUPPLIES

| | |
|---|---|
| Visits of inspection ... ... ... | 90 |
| Visits to investigate complaints ... ... ... | 8 |

RIVERS POLLUTION AND WATER SUPPLIES (cont.)

| | |
|---|---|
| Samples of river water ... ... ... ... ... | 26 |
| Water samples ... ... ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| Surveys of water supplies and sewage disposal schemes ... | 22 |

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS

| | |
|---|---|
| Accredited Herds - Inspection of premises (new applications) | 120 |
| Re-inspections ... ... ... ... | 226 |
| Inspections for Bottling licences ... | 1 |
| Tuberculin Tested Herds - Inspection of premises (new applications) | 12 |
| Re-inspections ... ... ... ... | 25 |
| Inspections for Bottling licences ... | 1 |
| Milk in Schools Scheme - Inspection of premises ... ... | 100 |
| Milk supplies to Council's Institutions - Inspection of premises . | 2 |
| Visits to "Ordinary" herds for Mastitis & Undulant Fever ... | 3 |
| Samples of Milk ... ... ... ... ... ... | 67 |

INSPECTION OF MEAT AT THE DEVON MENTAL HOSPITAL

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of inspections ... ... ... ... ... ... | 55 |
| Number of Carcases examined ... ... ... ... ... | 294 |

GENERAL

| | |
|---|---|
| Consultations with District Sanitary Inspectors, etc. ... | 89 |
| Investigation of other complaints ... ... ... ... | 26 |

## MILK

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926, MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936 & 1938.

The following is a summary of the work in connection with Milk Production:-

During the year 4,270 Veterinary Inspections were carried out, 81,614 bovines have been examined, and 517 (.63%) cows with indurated udders have been detected. Examination of the milk from these abnormal udders has shown that 15 (.02% of the total number of animals examined) were giving tuberculous milk, and 506 (.62% of the total number of cows examined) were giving milk which was unfit for human consumption for reasons other than tuberculosis.

The cows giving tuberculous milk have been slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Orders, while steps have been taken to prevent the milk from other cows, returned as unfit, from reaching the public.

| MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS 1936 & 1938 LICENCES | NEW APPLICATIONS | APPROVED | LICENCES IN FORCE AT END OF YEAR | SAMPLES SUBMITTED | NUMBER FAILED | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ACCREDITED | 61 | 40 | 872 | 1,007 | 394 | 39% |
| TUBERCULIN TESTED | 2 | 2 | 92 | 85 | 29 | 34% |

The majority of milk samples are submitted by the Local Sanitary Inspectors in the County, the remainder being taken by the County Sanitary Inspectors and Dairy Instructresses.

Towards the end of the year the Public Health Committee decided to form a Milk Sub-Committee to deal with the various wartime difficulties arising over Milk, and designated Producers.

SUMMARY OF CANCELLED LICENCES

| | |
|---|---|
| Cancelled owing to unsatisfactory premises, methods and use of mechanical milking machines without steam sterilisation ... | 5 |
| Suspended ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |

SUMMARY OF CANCELLED LICENCES (cont.)

| | |
|---|---|
| Withdrawn by licence holder owing to having given up business ... | 12 |
| Withdrawn by licence holder owing to moving to other premises ... | 2 |
| Transferred from Accredited to Tuberculin Tested ... ... ... | 4 |
| " " Tuberculin Tested to Accredited ... ... ... | 2 |
| Not recommended to have licence renewed ... ... ... ... | 1 |

MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME

During the year the herds of producers supplying milk under this scheme have been examined quarterly, and samples of milk submitted from any suspicious cows.

200 bulk samples of milk from these producers have been taken by the Local Sanitary Inspectors for cleanliness, and of these, 80 (40%) have failed to reach the required standard - this number included repeat samples.

## SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

All functions relating to the sale of Food and Drugs are discharged by the Police. There are no special County Inspectors.

Samples are taken regularly by the Police Officers and submitted to The Public Analyst, Mr. T. Tickle, for analysis. The latter submits a report to the Public Health Committee at the end of each quarter. In the Paignton Urban District the sampling is carried out by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The following gives details of the specimens submitted to the County Analyst during the year;

| Article | Number of Samples | | Number of Adulterations | | Number of Prosecutions | | Amount of Fines & costs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1941 | 1940 | 1941 | 1940 | 1941 | 1940 | 1941 |
| Ale, Whisky & Beer | 10 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Baking Powder | 6 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Blanc Mange Powder | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Bread | 7 | 6 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Butter | 40 | 32 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Cheese | 6 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Cocoa & Chocolate | 11 | 7 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Coffee | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Cooking Fat | 6 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Custard Powder | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Egg Powder | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Flour, Self-Raising, Plain | 37 | 26 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Food Paste | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ground Ginger | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Lard | 17 | 8 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Margarine | 27 | 24 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Milk | 413 | 367 | 45 | 62 | 23 | 22 | £42 3s 6d |
| Miscellaneous | 9 | 11 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mustard | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Oatmeal | 4 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pepper | 31 | 23 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Porridge & Rolled Oats | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Rice | 28 | 16 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sago & Semolina | 4 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sugar | 22 | 15 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sweets | 2 | 11 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Soup | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tapioca | 5 | 9 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tea | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Turmeric | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Vinegar | 22 | 16 | 4 | - | 2 | - | - |
| Total number of samples taken | 746 | 592 | 49 | 62 | 25 | 22 | £42 3s 6d |